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**Feeding plasticity more than metabolic rate drives the productivity of economically important filter feeders in response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and reduced salinity**

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**Running Head:** Effects of CO<sub>2</sub> and salinity on feeding and metabolism

**Key words:** tunicates, bivalves, ocean acidification, scope for growth, metabolism, clearance rate, absorption efficiency.

35 **Abstract**

36

37 Climate Change driven alterations in salinity and carbonate chemistry are predicted to  
38 have significant implications particularly for northern coastal organisms, including the  
39 economically important filter feeders *Mytilus edulis* and *Ciona intestinalis*. However,  
40 despite a growing number of studies investigating the biological effects of multiple  
41 environmental stressors, the combined effects of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and reduced salinity  
42 remain comparatively understudied. Changes in metabolic costs associated with  
43 homeostasis and feeding/digestion in response to environmental stressors may  
44 reallocate energy from growth and reproduction, affecting performance. Although these  
45 energetic trade-offs in response to changes in routine metabolic rates have been well  
46 demonstrated fewer studies have investigated how these are affected by changes in  
47 feeding plasticity. Consequently, the present study investigated the combined effects of  
48 26 days' exposure to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  (500  $\mu\text{atm}$  and 1000  $\mu\text{atm}$ ) and reduced salinity  
49 (30, 23 and 16) on the energy available for growth and performance (Scope for Growth)  
50 in *M. edulis* and *C. intestinalis*, and the role of metabolic rate (oxygen uptake) and  
51 feeding plasticity (clearance rate and absorption efficiency) in this process. In *M. edulis*  
52 exposure to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  resulted in a 50% reduction in Scope for Growth. However,  
53 elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  had a much greater effect on *C. intestinalis*, with more than a 70%  
54 reduction in Scope for Growth. In *M. edulis* negative responses to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  are  
55 also unlikely be further affected by changes in salinity between 16 and 30. Whereas,  
56 under future predicted levels of  $p\text{CO}_2$  *C. intestinalis* showed 100% mortality at a  
57 salinity of 16, and a >90% decrease in Scope for Growth with reduced biomass at a  
58 salinity of 23. Importantly, this work demonstrates energy available for production is  
59 more dependent on feeding plasticity, i.e. the ability to regulate clearance rate and  
60 absorption efficiency, in response to multiple stressors than on more commonly studied  
61 changes in metabolic rates.

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69 **Introduction**

70 Climate change is leading to simultaneous alterations in several environmental factors  
71 including ocean temperature, pH and salinity ( e.g. Doney *et al.* 2009). Rising levels  
72 of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere are causing increases in sea surface temperature, and  
73 worldwide modification of ocean carbonate chemistry, with gradual reductions in pH  
74 and carbonate ion (CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>) availability in a process known as ocean acidification (e.g.  
75 Sabine and Feely 2007; Doney *et al.* 2009). Elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and associated  
76 temperature changes are also affecting weather patterns and are altering the Earth's  
77 hydrological cycle, which in turn, affects ocean salinity (Pierce *et al.* 2012). Freshening  
78 of surface salinity has been occurring over past decades with some of the largest  
79 reductions in salinity taking place at higher latitudes because of increased precipitation,  
80 freshwater runoff, melting freshwater ice and alterations in the meridional overturning  
81 circulation (Callaghan *et al.* 2011). Most studies to date on the effects of elevated *p*CO<sub>2</sub>  
82 and reduced salinity have focused on their individual effects. Recently, however, the  
83 combined effects of various factors have received some attention, as these may differ  
84 from the examination of each factor individually (e.g. Harvey *et al.* 2013; ; Sokolova  
85 *et al.* 2016).

86 Reduced salinity is a prominent stress factor in Arctic and Subarctic coastal  
87 areas with future changes predicted to have significant implications for northern  
88 estuarine and fjord ecosystems (e.g. Biggs and Cronin 1981; Callaghan *et al.* 2011).  
89 Such species include economically important filter feeders such as the blue mussel  
90 *Mytilus edulis* and the invasive ascidian *Ciona intestinalis* (Locke and Carman 2009).  
91 Colder higher latitude waters also absorb more CO<sub>2</sub> than warmer waters resulting in a  
92 greater pH change and lower levels of calcium carbonate saturation at a given *p*CO<sub>2</sub>  
93 level ( Takahashi *et al.* 2014). The effect of elevated *p*CO<sub>2</sub> on seawater pH may also be  
94 increased in these areas as reduced salinity will reduce the total alkalinity and buffering  
95 capacity of seawater (Lee *et al.*, 2006). Tolerances to elevated *p*CO<sub>2</sub> vary among  
96 marine invertebrate species, as do tolerances to changes in salinity (e.g. Sokolova *et al.*  
97 2016; Wood *et al.* 2016). Little, however, is known about their combined effects and  
98 our current understanding in filter feeders is limited to just a few studies where it has  
99 been shown that these factors influence the survival, energy metabolism and  
100 osmoregulatory capacity as well as weaken shells. (e.g. Dickinson *et al.* 2013; Velez *et*  
101 *al.* 2016). It is possible that the tolerance of *M. edulis* and *C. intestinalis* to the combined  
102 effects of elevated *p*CO<sub>2</sub> and reduced salinity may differ. If so, this could potentially

103 affect community structure via alterations in competitive interactions between the two  
104 species, which are known to have an economic impact on *M. edulis* aquaculture (e.g.  
105 Locke and Carman 2009).

106                 Although *M. edulis* and *C. intestinalis* have long been considered  
107 osmoconformers with little extracellular ionic control (Shumway 1977; 1978)) both  
108 species have adapted/acclimatised to wide natural gradients in salinity. For example, in  
109 the Baltic Sea the lowest salinity limit for development in *C. intestinalis* is as low as 11  
110 (Dybern 1967), and the natural distribution of *M. edulis* is only limited by salinities  
111 lower than 4.5 (Segerstråle 1944). However, laboratory studies suggest that optimum  
112 fertilisation and early development of *C. intestinalis* occurs above 34 salinity, with  
113 much wider tolerance ranges for pH, between 7.4 and 8.8 (Ballas *et al.* 2003). In *M.*  
114 *edulis* adaptation/acclimatisation appears to come at an energetic cost with low salinity  
115 populations exhibiting reductions in growth, longevity and reproductive fitness (e.g.  
116 Westerbom *et al.* 2002), with metabolic rates (i.e. the cost of living) increase linearly  
117 between 30 to 10 salinity (Stickle and Sabourin 1979). However, metabolic responses  
118 to reduced salinity are dependent on ion-regulatory capacity, with euryhaline  
119 invertebrates demonstrating increased metabolic rates when exposed to reduced salinity  
120 and stenohaline invertebrates, such as *M. edulis* and *C. intestinalis*, demonstrating  
121 decreased metabolic rates ( Shumway 1978). Calcification in *M. edulis* is limited by  
122 low salinity (lower salinity threshold for calcification between 14.7 and 20; Malone &  
123 Dodd 1967), as well as elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  (e.g. Fitzer *et al.* 2016) possibly affecting the  
124 overall cost of calcification and so growth. Under elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$ , increased cellular  
125 energy demands limit energy available for growth and productivity (Thomsen and  
126 Melzner 2010), although food availability and feeding rate are determining factors  
127 (Thomsen *et al.* 2013). Both elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and reduced salinity can affect energetic  
128 demand and resource allocation affecting performance, productivity and survival.  
129 However, changes (both positive or negative) in energy absorption via feeding, which  
130 in filter feeders is dependent on clearance rate and absorption efficiency, are likely as  
131 important in determining energy budgets as changes in metabolic rate. Metabolic costs  
132 changing directly with feeding due to specific dynamic action (Gaffney and Diehl 1986;  
133 Sigsgaard *et al.* 2003). Despite the importance of feeding plasticity in determining  
134 energy availability for growth and performance, little is known of how responses, such  
135 as clearance rate and absorption efficiency, interact to affect overall energy absorption  
136 in filter feeders when challenged by elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and/or reduced salinity. In general,

137 filter feeders reduce pumping rates in response to reduced salinity, linked to decreased  
138 clearance rates (e.g. Anderson and Prosser 1953; Shumway 1977; Shumway 1978).  
139 However, clearance rates and particle retention are much more plastic than previously  
140 supposed (e.g. Denis *et al.* 1999; Strohmeier *et al.* 2009; Strohmeier *et al.* 2012;  
141 Cranford *et al.* 2016), with some bivalves up regulating clearance rates at times of  
142 energy limitation (Denis *et al.* 1999). In addition to clearance rate, absorption efficiency  
143 of digestion is also an important determinant of overall energy absorption through  
144 feeding, which also shows plasticity. In the Atlantic Deep Sea Scallop (*Palctopecten*  
145 *magellanicus*), for example, mean absorption efficiency has been shown to increase as  
146 filtration rates decreased in an attempt to maintain total energy absorption through  
147 feeding (e.g. Cranford and Hargrave 1994). To date, the effects of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  on  
148 the absorption efficiency of marine organisms is not well understood (Navarro *et al.*  
149 2013). Some species, for example *Mytilus chilensis*, reduce absorption efficiency  
150 (Navarro *et al.*, 2013) and others such as the Mediterranean Mussel (*Mytilus*  
151 *galloprovincialis*) increase absorption efficiency in response to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$   
152 (Fernandez-Reiriz *et al.* 2012). Four-week exposure to reduced salinities in the mussel,  
153 *Perna viridis*, resulted in reduced absorption efficiency (Wang *et al.* 2011).  
154 The role of feeding plasticity in determining energy budgets is poorly understood. This  
155 study investigates the combined effects of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and reduced salinity on the  
156 energy available for growth and performance in *M. edulis* and *C. intestinalis*, and the  
157 role of feeding plasticity in this process. Both *M. edulis* and *C. intestinalis* were exposed  
158 to chronic mid-term (26 days) elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and reduced salinity. At the end of the  
159 exposure period, oxygen uptake rates were determined as a proxy for routine metabolic  
160 rates, and clearance rate and absorption efficiency were determined to assess the ability  
161 to exploit feeding plasticity. Fitness/performance was examined by measuring growth  
162 and mortality rates. Experiments were used to assess which species would be more  
163 likely to survive near future conditions of increasing  $p\text{CO}_2$  and declining salinity due  
164 to occur along northern coasts.

165

## 166 **Materials and Methods**

167

### 168 *Animal Collection and acclimation*

169 Adult *C. intestinalis* ( $3.8 \pm 0.1$  g FW,  $5.0 \pm 0.5$  cm length) and *M. edulis* ( $16.3 \pm 0.6$  g FW,

170 5.0±0.06 cm length) were collected from the shallow subtidal zone at the Institute of  
171 Marine Research, Austevoll, Norway (60°05'08.9"N, 05°15'42.5"E) in November  
172 2015. Ninety *C. intestinalis* and forty *M. edulis* were weighed as a baseline to monitor  
173 growth. The animals were then glued to pieces of velcro in preparation for attachment  
174 to the sides of the experimental tanks, mimicking their natural hanging position. The  
175 animals were left to recover for 48 h in aerated ambient seawater prior to acclimation  
176 to experimental conditions. Five *C. intestinalis* and three *M. edulis* were assigned to  
177 each treatment tank (4 L) and the tanks were triplicated per experimental treatment (N  
178 = 15 *C. intestinalis*; N= 9 *M. edulis* per treatment). After being assigned to treatment  
179 tanks, salinity and  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels were changed from ambient to the final treatment  
180 conditions over approximately 6 h.

181         The treatments consisted of three salinity levels (30, 23 and 16) and two  $p\text{CO}_2$   
182 levels (500 and 1000  $\mu\text{atm}$ ) in a fully crossed design. Treatments were maintained using  
183 a flow-through system, using unfiltered seawater pumped (7m depth), directly from the  
184 site of animal collection and supplied to each treatment tank at a flow  $\approx 50 \text{ L h}^{-1}$ . This  
185 insured that control treatments corresponded to natural  $p\text{CO}_2$  and salinity levels.  
186 Seawater salinity levels for each experimental treatment were maintained by mixing  
187 with un-chlorinated freshwater (source, Vannområde Vest Austevoll), before being  
188 supplied to 6 header tanks (1 per treatment) where  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels were controlled. A  
189 nominal control  $p\text{CO}_2$  value of 500  $\mu\text{atm}$  was selected as this corresponded to the  
190 natural habitat  $p\text{CO}_2$  level that the organisms were acclimated to at the time of  
191 collection. Carbonate chemistry in Norwegian fjords is extremely dynamic and elevated  
192  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels compared to the open ocean can be associated with seasonal decreases in  
193 primary productivity (e.g. Fransson et al 2016). To achieve a predicted future elevated  
194  $p\text{CO}_2$  level of 1000  $\mu\text{atm}$  (e.g. Caldeira and Wickett 2003) the pH was individually  
195 controlled for each salinity treatment taking into account the effect of temperature,  
196 salinity and total alkalinity (30 = pH 7.676; 23 = pH 7.598; 16 = pH 7.489) calculated  
197 using free-access  $\text{CO}_2\text{SYS}$  (Lewis and Wallace 1998).  $\text{CO}_2$  levels were achieved by the  
198 addition of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  seawater (pH 5.5) to each header tank via peristaltic pumps  
199 controlled according to seawater pH levels via pH electrodes connected a controller  
200 (Endress and Hauser, Liquiline CM448; after, Andersen *et al.*, 2013). The flow through  
201 system was placed within a temperature controlled room to maintain at 10°C  
202 throughout the experiment. Salinity, pH and temperature in each individual tank were

203 recorded three times a day using a handheld multimeter (labquest 2, vernier). Total  
204 alkalinity (TA) was measured twice a week by titration (TIM840 titration manager,  
205 TitraLab). Values for the physicochemical parameters and the associated carbonate  
206 chemistry values for this system are presented in Table 1. Following 26 days of  
207 acclimation a number of responses were determined in order to assess energy allocation  
208 in *C. intestinalis* and *M. edulis* as a result of combined exposure to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and  
209 reduced salinity.

210

### 211 *Determination of feeding rate and energy absorption*

212 Particle clearance rate (CR) of 9 *C. intestinalis* and 9 *M. edulis* was determined as an  
213 estimate of feeding rate and for the calculation of energy ingestion using the flow  
214 through feeding chambers developed by Strohmeier *et al.* (2009). These chambers were  
215 supplied with the same unfiltered seawater as the animals in the respective treatment  
216 tanks. Three chambers were left empty as controls. Internal dimensions of the *C.*  
217 *intestinalis* feeding chambers were: width 5 x length 22 x height 10 (cm) and the *M.*  
218 *edulis* chambers were: width 3.8 x length 19.5 x height 8 (cm). These chambers have  
219 been demonstrated to restrict recirculation and therefore inhibit the animals from re-  
220 filtering the water (Strohmeier *et al.* 2009; Cranford *et al.* 2016). The rate of water flow  
221 was maintained to a level that would also ensure no re-filtration (nominal set values;  
222 *M. edulis* = 10 l h<sup>-1</sup>; *C. intestinalis* = 6 l h<sup>-1</sup>). The animals were placed in the chambers  
223 and allowed to rest for 1h undisturbed to resume feeding behaviour prior to sampling  
224 before the concentration of suspended particles (within 30 size-interval between 1 and  
225 60µm in diameter) in the out-flow seawater from each chamber was measured using a  
226 laser particle counter (PAMAS GmbH, Model S4031GO). This protocol was repeated  
227 3 times on the same 9 individuals and 3 controls from each respective species and  
228 treatment. As each of the 6 treatments were repeated 3 times, 6 hours apart, and each  
229 feeding trial took just over 1 h (1h of resting time, a few minutes to collect the water  
230 and then change the treatment) clearance rate and POM data was collected over a 12  
231 hour period before the faecal collection as describe below. Therefore, the food in the  
232 gut that was defecated during faecal collection was cleared by the animal during the  
233 feeding trials. CR (l h<sup>-1</sup>) was then calculated using the equation:

$$234 \quad \text{CR} = F(C_{\text{in}} - C_{\text{out}}) / C_{\text{in}} \quad (1)$$



235 Where  $F$  ( $l\ h^{-1}$ ) is the measured flow rate of water through each individual chamber.  $C_{in}$   
236 is the inflow concentration of food represented by the particle concentration from the  
237 control chambers, and  $C_{out}$  is the partial concentration from each experimental chamber.

238 To calculate energy ingestion from CR particulate organic matter (POM) was  
239 determined for each feeding experiment. POM was determined by collecting 4 L of  
240 seawater from each of the 3 control chambers and filtering through pre-combusted (450  
241 °C for 5 hours to remove carbon) and pre-weighed 1.5  $\mu m$  glass microfiber filters  
242 (VWR) using 1 ml of ammonium formate to remove salt crystals. Filters were dried to  
243 determine dry weight (DW; 60°C for 24 hours) and ash free-dry weight (AFDW; 450°C  
244 for 5 hours) to establish organic content of the POM. This protocol was repeated three  
245 times for each control chamber. Energy ingested through feeding was then estimated  
246 by multiplying CR by the concentration of POM ( $mg\ AFDW\ L^{-1}$ ) and by the energetic  
247 content of POM ( $23\ J\ mg\ AFDW^{-1}$ ; Widdows *et al.* 1979).

248 Following feeding experiments the animals were placed in individual chambers  
249 constructed from sections of PVC pipe (length 12 cm, diameter 8cm) with mesh  
250 attached to each end (diameter 375  $\mu m$ ). After 24 h any faecal pellets in the chambers  
251 were filtered onto pre-weighed and burned filters (described above) using distilled  
252 water. Following this the filters were dried to determine DW (60°C for 24 hours) and  
253 AFDW (450°C for 5 hours) to establish organic content of the faecal pellets. Absorption  
254 efficiency was then estimated from the ratio of the organic content of the seston (POM)  
255 averaged over the 12h feeding period prior to faecal collection and the organic content  
256 of the faeces, using the equation (after, Conover 1966):

$$257 \quad \text{Absorption Efficiency} = (F-E) / ((1-E)F) \quad (2)$$

258 Where  $F$  is the ash-free dry weight: dry weight ratio of the seston during feeding and  $E$   
259 is the ash-free dry weight: dry weight ratio of the faeces. Energy absorption through  
260 feeding was then estimated by multiplying the energy ingested by the absorption  
261 efficiency.

262

### 263 *Rates of oxygen uptake*

264 Oxygen uptake rate was measured as a proxy for metabolic rate ( $\dot{M}O_2$ ).  $\dot{M}O_2$  was  
265 measured using stop-flow respirometry after Garilli *et al.* (2015) and Harvey *et al.*

266 (2016). In brief, individual *C. intestinalis* and *M. edulis* from each treatment were  
267 placed in individual chambers (volume 160 ml) supplied with the same seawater as the  
268 respective treatments tanks (flow rate  $\approx 10 \text{ L h}^{-1}$ ). Animals were allowed 1 h to recover  
269 from handling and regain natural ventilatory behaviour before the flow to each chamber  
270 was closed and the decreases in % oxygen saturation continuously measured using a  
271 non-invasive optical oxygen system (Oxy-10 mini, PreSense; labquest 2, Vernier)  
272 modified from Rastrick and Whiteley (2011) and Calosi *et al.*, (2013). The incubation  
273 period was 5 h for *C. intestinalis* and 3 h for *M. edulis*, during which time, % oxygen  
274 saturation levels of the seawater did not fall below 70% to avoid hypoxic conditions. A  
275 blank chamber with no animal was monitored in parallel to each treatment to account  
276 for background respiration in the seawater. Percentage oxygen saturation was converted  
277 to oxygen partial pressure ( $PO_2$ ) adjusted for atmospheric pressure and vapour pressure  
278 adjusted for relative humidity (continuously monitored using a multimeter; Labquest 2,  
279 Vernier).  $\dot{M}O_2$  was calculated from the decrease in  $PO_2$  within each chamber multiplied  
280 by the oxygen solubility of seawater using coefficients adjusted for the effect of  
281 temperature and salinity (Benson and Krause, 1984), and expressed as  $\mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ h}^{-1}$ .  
282  $\dot{M}O_2$  was then used to estimate the amount of absorbed energy lost via metabolism  
283 (routine metabolic maintenance of homeostasis, feeding and digestion) assuming a heat  
284 equivalent of oxygen uptake of  $0.456 \text{ j } \mu\text{mol}^{-1} \text{ O}_2$  (Gnaiger, 1983).

### 285 *Growth*

286 Estimates of energy availability for growth and reproduction (Scope for Growth; SfG)  
287 for each treatment were calculated from estimates of rates of energy absorption  
288 though feeding (EA;  $\text{j h}^{-1}$ ) and energy loss via metabolism (EL;  $\text{j h}^{-1}$ ; modified from  
289 Widdows and Johnson 1988):

290

$$291 \quad \text{SfG (j h}^{-1}\text{)} = \text{EA} - \text{EL} \quad (3)$$

292 During the incubation period the wet weight (g) of each animal was recorded twice a  
293 week to determine growth rates. At the end of the acclimation the soft tissue of *C.*  
294 *intestinalis* and *M. edulis* individuals was dried to determine dry weight ( $60^\circ\text{C}$  for 48  
295 hours) and ash free-dry weight ( $450^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 hours) to establish any treatment effects  
296 on carbon richness (energy density) of the tissue.

297

### 298 *Statistical Analysis*

299 The effects of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and/or reduced salinity (fixed factors) on all of the  
300 measured parameters (dependent factors) were tested using a nested general linear  
301 mixed model (GLMM) with body mass as a covariate (to adjusted for the effect of  
302 variation in body size between individuals) and tank as a random factor nested within  
303 the fixed factors. This considers that replicate tanks were supplied by a single header  
304 tank per treatment and therefore, despite being a flow through system, tanks may not  
305 be considered true replicates (e.g. Collard *et al.*, 2015; Small *et al.*, 2015). Any  
306 observed significant differences were further analysed by F-tests based on pairwise  
307 comparisons generated from the estimated marginal means of the GLMM. Proportional  
308 data was arc sign square root transformed before statistical analysis. All values are  
309 expressed as means  $\pm$  SEM. All statistical analyses were performed using SPS software  
310 (v 20 SPS Chicago, Ill, USA).

311

312

## 313 **Results**

### 314 *Mortality*

315 After 20 days of the 26-day exposure period *C. intestinalis* showed 0% survivorship in  
316 the lowest salinity of 16. Consequently, further energetic parameters could not be  
317 determined in this treatment. After 26-days the lowest survivorship of 53% was  
318 recorded in the 23 salinity and elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatment, followed by 80% in the  
319 ambient salinity of 30 and elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatment. At ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$ , 87% and 90%  
320 survivorship was reported for salinities of 23 and 30, respectively. Conversely over the  
321 26-day exposure period only one mortality was reported for *M. edulis* across all  
322 treatments.

323

### 324 *Feeding - clearance rate and energy ingestion*

325 In *C. intestinalis* elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  significantly influenced the effect of salinity on CR  
326 ( $F_{1,29}=10.291$ ,  $P= 0.003$ ) and energy ingestion ( $F_{1,29}= 8.938$ ,  $P<0.01$ ). In the ambient  
327  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments, CR and energy ingestion were maintained across the salinity  
328 treatments. However, in the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments a reduction in salinity from 30  
329 to 23 resulted in a significant reduction in CR in *C. intestinalis* from  $0.9\pm 0.1 \text{ L h}^{-1}$  to  
330  $0.3 \pm 0.1 \text{ L h}^{-1}$ , respectively ( $F_{1,29} = 13.829$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; Figure 1C). This was associated  
331 with a significant decrease in energy ingestion between the same treatments  
332 ( $F_{1,29}=11.940$ ,  $P<0.01$ ; Table 2). Energy ingestion was also significantly lower in

333 elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments at both a salinity of 30 ( $F_{1,29} = 11,940$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ) and 23 ( $F_{1,29}$   
334  $= 62.765$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Table 2).

335 In *M. edulis*, elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  significantly influenced the effect of salinity on CR  
336 ( $F_{2,45} = 11.421$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Figure 2, A) and energy ingestion ( $F_{2,45} = 7.075$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ;  
337 Table 3). In the ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments, a reduction in salinity from 30 to 16 resulted  
338 in a significant reduction in CR from  $2.5 \pm 0.2 \text{ L h}^{-1}$  to  $1.0 \pm 0.2 \text{ L h}^{-1}$ , ( $F_{2,45} = 13.748$ ,  
339  $P < 0.001$ ; Figure 1D) and energy ingestion ( $F_{2,45} = 31.167$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Table 3),  
340 respectively. However, in the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments, CR was maintained across the  
341 salinity treatments, driving the interaction. Overall in *M. edulis*, elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  resulted  
342 in an increase in CR ( $F_{1,45} = 62.555$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and energy ingestion ( $F_{1,45} = 5.640$ ,  
343  $P < 0.05$ ). This was driven by significantly higher CR in the combined elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$   
344 and reduced salinity treatments (23 salinity,  $F_{1,45} = 13.345$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; 16 salinity,  $F_{1,45}$   
345  $= 70.185$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

346

#### 347 *Feeding - Absorption Efficiency*

348 The absorption efficiency of surviving *C. intestinalis* showed no significant variation  
349 between salinity treatments of 30 and 23 ( $F_{1,26} = 0.065$ ,  $P = 0.801$ ) or  $p\text{CO}_2$  combinations  
350 ( $F_{1,4} = 4.730$ ,  $P = 0.099$ ; Table 2). *M. edulis* showed an increase in absorption efficiency  
351 at reduced salinity, although this pattern was significantly influenced by  $p\text{CO}_2$  ( $F_{2,39} =$   
352  $7.296$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ; Table 3). In the ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments, salinity had a greater effect  
353 on absorption efficiency with significantly higher absorption efficiencies at salinities  
354 of both 23 and 16 compared with ambient salinity ( $F_{2,12} = 20.443$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Table 3).  
355 At elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$ , the effects of salinity were weaker and like *C. intestinalis* there was  
356 no significant difference in absorption efficiency between the ambient and 23 salinity  
357 treatments. Although, absorption efficiency did significantly increase at the lowest  
358 salinity of 16 compared with ambient salinity ( $F_{2,12} = 4.304$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ; Table 3). This  
359 interaction was, in part, driven by a significant reduction in absorption efficiency at  
360 elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  across all salinity treatments ( $F_{2,39} = 7.296$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ).

361

#### 362 *Feeding - Energy Absorption*

363 The energy absorption of *C. intestinalis* estimated from energy ingested through  
364 feeding and absorption efficiency showed no significant variation between those  
365 surviving salinity treatments at ambient or elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels ( $F_{1,29} = 0.508$ ,  
366  $P = 0.482$ ). However, energy absorption was lower in *C. intestinalis* at elevated

367 compared with ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels, with significant reductions of 66% ( $F_{1,29}= 8.378$ ,  
368  $P>0.01$ ) and 93% ( $F_{1,29}= 19.287$ ,  $P>0.001$ ) in the 30 and 23 salinity treatments,  
369 respectively.

370 In *M. edulis* the effect of salinity on energy absorption was significantly  
371 influenced by  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels ( $F_{2,41} = 18.930$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). At ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$ , energy  
372 absorption showed a slight but significant increase between ambient salinity and a  
373 salinity of the 23 (mean difference  $_{2,41} = 4.952\pm 2.398$ ,  $P<0.05$ ). However, at the lower  
374 salinity of 16, energy absorption significantly decreased compared to ambient salinity,  
375 to levels similar to those reported across the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments (mean difference  
376  $_{2,41} = -12.465\pm 2.393$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). In the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments, energy absorption was  
377 significantly lower than the values at ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  across all salinities ( $F_{1,4}=17.360$ ,  
378  $P<0.05$ ; Table 3) and showed no significant variation with salinity ( $F_{2,41}=1.265$ ,  
379  $P=0.293$ ; Table 3).

380

#### 381 *Metabolic Rate*

382 In *C. intestinalis*, rates of oxygen uptake ( $\dot{\text{M}}\text{O}_2$ ) were significantly lower at a salinity of  
383 23 compared to the ambient salinity at both  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels ( $F_{1,4} = 146.901$ ,  $P<0.001$ ;  
384 Figure 1A). However, in the same species  $\dot{\text{M}}\text{O}_2$  were significantly higher in the elevated  
385 compared to the ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments at both the 23 and the ambient salinity  
386 treatments ( $F_{1,25} = 35.701$ ,  $P<0.001$ ; Figure 1A).

387 In *M. edulis*  $\dot{\text{M}}\text{O}_2$  was also significantly lower at reduced salinity compared with  
388 ambient treatments, but only at the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels. (23 salinity,  $F_{7,51}=5.154$ ,  
389  $P<0.05$ ; 16 salinity,  $F_{7,51}=4.980$ ,  $P<0.05$ ; Figure 1B). In contrast and similar to *C.*  
390 *intestinalis*, *M. edulis* exhibited a significant increase in  $\dot{\text{M}}\text{O}_2$  at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  across  
391 all salinity treatments ( $F_{1,3} = 38.089$ ,  $P<0.01$ ; Figure 1B). In *M. edulis*,  $\dot{\text{M}}\text{O}_2$  also  
392 decreased significantly in association with a decrease in CR (Spearman Rank,  
393 correlation coefficient $_{58} = 0.426$ ,  $p<0.01$ ).

394

#### 395 *Growth*

396 In *C. intestinalis* estimated energy available for growth and reproduction (SfG) showed  
397 no variation among salinity treatments at the ambient ( $F_{1,29}=0.022$ ,  $P=0.884$ ) or  
398 elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments ( $F_{1,29}=1.438$ ,  $P=0.240$ ). Despite conservation of SfG across  
399 the 23 and ambient salinity treatments at ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels, growth rate significantly  
400 decreased from  $0.035\pm 0.013$  g day $^{-1}$  at ambient salinity to  $-0.007$  g day $^{-1}$  and  $-0.011$  g

401 day<sup>-1</sup> at salinities of 23 and 16, respectively ( $F_{2,68}=3.521$ ,  $P<0.05$ ). Negative growth at  
402 a salinity of 23 was accompanied by a significant increase in AFDW: DW ratio at  
403 ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  ( $F_{1,8}=18.396$ ,  $P<0.01$ ; Table 2). However, at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels,  
404 growth rate was unaffected by a change in salinity from 30 to 23 ( $F_{2,68}=0.692$ ,  $P=0.504$ ).

405 Despite no changes in SfG between a salinity of 30 and 23 at either  $p\text{CO}_2$  level,  
406 there were significant decrease in SfG in the elevated compared to the ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$   
407 treatments at both salinities ( $F_{1,29}=226.690$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). In the ambient salinity treatment,  
408 SfG was reduced by more than 70% at elevated compared with ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels  
409 ( $F_{1,29}=8.468$ ,  $P<0.01$ ). This was associated with a significant reduction in AFDW:DW  
410 ratio of the tissues ( $F_{1,8}=7.414$ ,  $P<0.05$ ). However, due to large variations between  
411 individuals, this was not associated with a significant reduction in growth rate  
412 ( $F_{1,68}=0.605$ ,  $P=0.439$ ). At a reduced salinity of 23, elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  had a greater effect  
413 on SfG than at ambient salinities, with more than a 90% decrease between ambient and  
414 elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments ( $F_{1,29}=19.360$ ,  $P<0.001$ ).

415 Overall, in *M. edulis*, SfG was significantly lower in the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$   
416 treatments compared with ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels ( $F_{1,4}=19.162$ ,  $P<0.05$ ). In addition, the  
417 effect of salinity on SfG was significantly influenced by elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  ( $F_{2,40}=18.367$ ,  
418  $P<0.001$ ). At ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$ , *M. edulis* showed a small but significant increase in SfG  
419 between ambient and the 23 salinity treatments (mean difference  $_{2,40}= 5.096\pm 2.422$ ,  
420  $P<0.05$ ; Table 3), but a significant decrease at the lowest salinity of 16 (mean difference  
421  $_{2,40}= -12.352\pm 2.418$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). However, there was no significant variation in SfG  
422 between salinity treatments at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  ( $F_{2,41}=1.641$ ,  $P=0.206$ ). Patterns in SfG  
423 were reflected in observed growth rate. At ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$ , growth rate was maintained  
424 unchanged between ambient and the 23 salinity treatment (mean difference  $_{2,39}= -$   
425  $0.01\pm 0.008$ ,  $P=0.227$ ), but significantly decreased from  $0.035\pm 0.006$  g day<sup>-1</sup> in the  
426 ambient salinity treatment to  $0.014$  g day<sup>-1</sup> in the 16 salinity treatment (mean difference  
427  $_{2,39}= -0.021\pm 0.008$ ,  $P<0.05$ ). Growth rates did not vary significantly between salinity  
428 treatments at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels ( $F_{2,39}=0.754$ ,  $P=0.477$ ). AFDW: DW ratios showed  
429 no significant variation between  $p\text{CO}_2$  ( $F_{1,2}=11.458$ ,  $P=0.082$ ) or salinity treatments  
430 ( $F_{2,5}=0.442$ ,  $P=0.668$ ; Table 3).

431

## 432 **Discussion**

### 433 *Feeding responses to combined elevated $p\text{CO}_2$ and reduced salinity*

434 Following 26 days exposure to the combined treatment, surviving tunicates maintained

435 CR and energy absorption between salinities of 30 and 23 at present ambient levels of  
436  $p\text{CO}_2$ . However,  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels associated with predicted OA had a synergistic effect with  
437 the lowest CR recorded in the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and reduced salinity treatment. As there  
438 was no significant difference in POM between treatments, energy ingestion was also  
439 lowest under elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and reduced salinity. Reductions in CR may result from  
440 reduced pumping activity and siphon retraction. *C. intestinalis* have a single inhalant  
441 siphon which they utilise for feeding and respiration. During repeated short-term  
442 exposure to a reduced salinity of 19, *C. intestinalis* close their siphons to avoid internal  
443 exposure to low salinity seawater, thereby avoiding osmotic imbalance (Shumway,  
444 1978). Pumping rates remained reduced until external salinity levels were restored to  
445 normal (Shumway, 1978). As *C. intestinalis* exhibited no significant variation in  
446 absorption efficiency across experimental treatments, reduced energy ingestion resulted  
447 in an uncompensated decrease in total energy absorption.

448 In the ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments, *M. edulis* demonstrated a reduction in CR in  
449 the lowest salinity treatment (16). *M. edulis* has also been shown to exhibit reduced  
450 pumping activity in order to limit internal exposure to low salinity water (Shumway  
451 1977). Both species show little ionic- or osmo-regulatory capacity, they have developed  
452 this response to isolate the tissues from exposure to reduced salinity conditions and  
453 associated ionic stress. Valve closure in response to decreases (50%) in sea water  
454 concentration has previously been reported in hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*;  
455 Anderson & Prosser 1953) and the pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*; Shumway 1977).  
456 Longer-term (4 week) exposure to reduced salinity levels comparable with the present  
457 study also led to reduced CR in the mussel, *Perna viridis* (Wang *et al.* 2011). Here  
458 reduced salinity did not result in a complete loss of pumping activity, that would restrict  
459 gas exchange, but reduced CR are likely to be involved with this general strategy to  
460 limited internal exposure to reduced salinities.

461 In contrast to *C. intestinalis*, *M. edulis* do partially compensate for reduced CR  
462 by up regulating absorption efficiency at lower salinities. The Atlantic Deep Sea  
463 Scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) also increases absorption efficiency as filtration  
464 rates decreased (e.g. Cranford & Hargrave 1994; *cf.* Wang *et al.* 2011). At ambient  
465  $p\text{CO}_2$  this up regulation in absorption efficiency in the 23 salinity treatment leads to a  
466 slight but significant increase in overall energy absorption. However, at a salinity of 16  
467 this compensation is incomplete resulting in lower overall energy absorption.

468 Compensatory changes in absorption efficiency may be limited due to an overall  
469 reduction in absorption efficiency at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$ , as also shown for Juvenile *Mytilus*  
470 *chilensis* (Navarro *et al.* 2013). Sea urchin larvae (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*)  
471 exposed to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  also showed reduced digestion rates and a 0.3-0.5 pH unit  
472 decrease in gut alkalinity, which was associated with decreased *in vitro* protease  
473 activity. Interestingly this  $p\text{CO}_2$  induced reduction in digestive activity was partly  
474 compensated by increased feeding rates (Stumpp *et al.* 2013) as seen here.

475 In the present study, reduced absorption efficiency reported in the elevated  
476  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments may also change the acclimatory strategy of *M. edulis* to reduced  
477 salinity. In contrast to ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments where CR are reduced at low salinities,  
478 at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  CR are maintained across all salinities, possibly to compensate for the  
479 reduction in absorption efficiency. CR and particle retention efficiency in bivalves may  
480 be much more plastic than previously thought (e.g. Denis *et al.* 1999; Strohmeier *et al.*  
481 2009, Strohmeier *et al.* 2012; Cranford *et al.* 2016). For example, *M. galloprovincialis*  
482 can increase CR maintaining energy absorption during food limitation (Denis *et al.*  
483 1999). However, the maintenance of CR at lower salinity and elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  here is not  
484 sufficient to fully compensate for  $p\text{CO}_2$ -associated reductions in absorption efficiency,  
485 resulting in lower overall energy absorption. Relative increases in CR/pumping  
486 represents a trade-off between exposure of internal tissues to unfavourable conditions  
487 and the attempted maintenance of total energy absorbance through feeding, which is  
488 likely sensitive to the length of exposure and size of energy reserves. When exposed  
489 to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$ , the maintenance of ventilation rates, associated with pumping  
490 activity, may also facilitate greater  $\text{CO}_2$  excretion (e.g. Donohue *et al.*, 2012)..

#### 491 *Metabolic responses to combined elevated $\text{PCO}_2$ and reduced salinity*

492 In general *M. edulis* and *C. intestinalis* exhibited similar metabolic responses to  
493 combined  $p\text{CO}_2$  and salinity conditions, with  $\dot{\text{M}}\text{O}_2$  decreasing in response to reduced  
494 salinity and increasing in response to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$ . Although in *M. edulis* significant  
495 decreases in  $\dot{\text{M}}\text{O}_2$  at the 23 and 16 salinity treatments were limited to the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$   
496 treatment. Several studies have reported increased metabolic rates in response to  
497 elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  in marine invertebrates (e.g. Wood *et al.* 2008; Beniash *et al.* 2010;  
498 Calosi *et al.* 2013) including *M. edulis* (Thomsen and Melzner 2010). Elevated  
499 metabolic rates may be associated with increased energetic costs of maintaining



500 physiological homeostasis (Wood *et al* 2008; Beniash *et al.* 2010). Conversely,  
501 reduced metabolic rate may help conserve energy at more extreme  $p\text{CO}_2/\text{pH}$  levels  
502 outside current predictions for ocean acidification (Langenbuch and Portner 2004); as  
503 shown by *M. galloprovincialis* following 3 months' exposure to pH 7.3 (Michaelidis *et*  
504 *al.* 2005) and *M. edulis* following 2 months' exposure to pH 7.14 (Thomsen and  
505 Melzner 2010). However, metabolic depression may not be sustainable in the longer-  
506 term with molluscs adapted/ acclimatised to naturally elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  ecosystems  
507 requiring elevated metabolic rates per gram of tissue to maintain performance (Harvey  
508 *et al.* 2016; Garilli, *et al.* 2015).

509         Metabolic responses to reduced salinity vary greatly in marine invertebrates  
510 with both increases (e.g. Navarro 1988) and decreases (e.g. Shumway 1978) in  $\dot{M}\text{O}_2$   
511 reported. In general, this response is dependent on ion-regulatory capacity, with  
512 stenohaline invertebrates, such as *M. edulis* and *C. intestinalis*, demonstrating a  
513 decrease in  $\dot{M}\text{O}_2$  (Shumway 1978), as reported here. *C. intestinalis* also reduces  $\dot{M}\text{O}_2$   
514 in response to decreased salinity, possibly associated with a reduction in ventilation and  
515 pumping activity (Shumway 1978). *M. edulis* and other bivalves also demonstrate  
516 reduced pumping to protect their internal structures from reduced salinity seawater  
517 (Anderson and Prosser 1953; Shumway 1977). Reduced pumping has been shown to  
518 reduce oxygen tension in the mantle cavity of *M. edulis* (Tang and Riisgård 2016) and  
519 the clam *Arctica islandica* (Taylor 1976). Valve control in *M. edulis* is postulated to  
520 regulate metabolic rate via reduction of oxygen partial pressure in the mantle cavity  
521 conserving energy during starvation (Tang and Riisgård 2016). However, as oxygen  
522 uptake is the result of metabolic demand for ATP and not an adaptive/acclimatory  
523 response, there is no known mechanism to explain how lowering oxygen availability  
524 via valve control could reduce oxygen demand without enzymatic feedback associated  
525 with harmful anaerobic pathways. This assumption also presumes that food limitation  
526 is ubiquitous with restricted valve opening and reduced CR, but this has been repeatedly  
527 questioned (e.g. Denis *et al.* 1999; Strohmeier *et al.* 2009; Strohmeier *et al.* 2012).  
528 Reduced activity due to restricted valve/siphon opening could reduce metabolic  
529 demand in response to low salinity (Shumway, 1978). Although, direct costs of  
530 pumping are estimated to be inconsequential in filter feeders (Jørgensen *et al.* 1986),  
531 reductions in metabolic rate due to reduced feeding and associated specific dynamic  
532 action (SDA) could be more significant. SDA accounts for approximately 20% of  
533 oxygen uptake rates in both *M. edulis* and *C. intestinalis*, depending on food quality

534 (Gaffney and Diehl 1986; Sigsgaard *et al.* 2003). In a wide variety of filter feeders,  
535 including *M. edulis*, reduced feeding is associated with reduced metabolism (Thompson  
536 and Bayne 1972). Observed decreases in routine metabolic rate with decreased salinity  
537 here do not exclude the theoretical possibility that costs of maintaining homeostasis  
538 could increase, and that this ATP is reallocated from other energetically demanding  
539 processes such as feeding and digestion. As routine metabolic rates were determined in  
540 naturally fed animals no attempt is made to separate costs associated to maintaining  
541 homeostasis and costs associated with energy assimilation via feeding. This study  
542 instead focuses on the ecologically relevant overall energy requirement of the animal  
543 that, unlike some studies on starved animals, considers that natural levels of feeding  
544 and digestion have an energetic cost that may also lead to important trade-offs with  
545 growth and should therefore be included in a general assessment of energetic costs.

#### 546 *Resource allocation to growth*

547 After 26 days incubation surviving tunicates showed a significant reduction in  
548 energy available for growth and reproduction (SfG) in the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments.  
549 This was a result of decreased energy absorption through feeding and to a lesser extent  
550 increased routine metabolic costs (including the costs of maintaining homeostasis and  
551 energy assimilation via feeding). In sea urchin larvae (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*)  
552 elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  (1271  $\mu\text{atm}$ ); also reduced SfG, attributed to increased allocation of  
553 absorbed energy to metabolism. (Stumpp *et al.* 2011). Larvae in ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$   
554 conditions allocated between 78 and 80% of available energy to growth, whereas,  
555 larvae incubated at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  invested only 39-45% (Stumpp *et al.*, 2011).  
556 Increased costs of maintaining physiological homeostasis have also been postulated to  
557 reduce energy available for growth in the brittle star, *Amphiura filiformis*, exposed to  
558 simulated OA (Wood *et al.* 2008) and in gastropods inhabiting naturally elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$   
559 environments (Harvey *et al.* 2015; Garilli *et al.*, 2015). However, in the present study  
560 increased routine metabolic rates in *C. intestinalis* at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  only accounted for  
561 a 1.2 j/day and 0.6 j/day decrease in SfG, at salinities of 30 and 23 respectively  
562 (calculated from differences in  $\dot{\text{M}}\text{O}_2$  between  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments, Fig 1A, assuming a heat  
563 equivalent of oxygen uptake of  $0.456 \text{ J } \mu\text{mol}^{-1} \text{ O}_2$ ; Gnaiger 1983). Whereas, reductions  
564 in energy absorbed through feeding at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  had a much greater effect on SfG,  
565 reducing energy availability by  $328.8 \text{ J day}^{-1}$  at a salinity of 30 and  $244.8 \text{ J day}^{-1}$  at a  
566 salinity of 23 (calculated from differences in energy absorption between  $p\text{CO}_2$

567 treatments, Table 2). Despite reductions in SfG, no significant reduction in growth rate  
568 could be attributed to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  at the ambient salinity, probably due to large  
569 individual variability. However, patterns in SfG were consistent with patterns in  
570 mortality among treatments. In treatments with surviving *C. intestinalis* after 26 days  
571 the lowest SfG and highest mortality was observed at a salinity of 23 and elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$   
572 with the lowest mortalities observed in ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatments where SfG was  
573 conserved between the ambient (30) and 23 salinity treatments.

574 Salinity caused mortality of 100% after 20 days in *C. intestinalis* similar to  
575 other studies (e.g. Vercaemer et al 2011). In the 23 salinity and elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  treatment  
576 *C. intestinalis* showed 53% mortality, here a selection may be possible as the survivors  
577 that are examined are the most tolerant individuals within the population. Since  
578 survivorship was above 80% in all other treatments, a selection effect is unlikely.  
579 Growth rates also significantly decreased with salinity with a reduction in body mass  
580 (negative growth) observed in all reduced salinity treatments. In the ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$   
581 treatment this reduction in body mass at reduced salinity occurred despite the  
582 maintenance of SfG and survivorship, possibly attributable to a significant increase in  
583 tissue AFDW:DW ratio. Consequently, in the 23 salinity treatment, available energy  
584 (SfG) may be diverted toward storage and increased carbon richness of tissues at the  
585 expense of overall growth. Although this is likely to increase the density of energy  
586 stores the benefits of a reduction in body size are difficult to explain. Paleontological  
587 and present reductions in body size, known as the Lilliput effect, associated with  
588 adaptation to natural elevations in  $p\text{CO}_2$  may, in part, help to maintaining metabolic  
589 efficiency (Garilli *et al.* 2015). Although beyond the scope here, reduced body mass of  
590 *C. intestinalis* in the ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  and reduced salinity treatment is associated with an  
591 increase in mass specific metabolic rates while conserving whole animal energetic  
592 demand compared to controls, possibly facilitating metabolic efficiency.

593 Across all treatments only one individual *M. edulis* died during the 26 day  
594 incubation, in the ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  and salinity treatment. Seasonal variation in body mass  
595 in Norwegian populations of *M. edulis* is highly dependent on reproduction, with body  
596 mass increasing in early summer before decreasing with spawning between June and  
597 August and then increasing again between September and December (e.g. Strohmeier  
598 *et al.* 2015). Making late Autumn growth, as documented in the present study, important  
599 to winter survival. The 8% increase recorded over 26 days under ambient conditions at

600 the same time of year is similar to previous studies (15-30% Strohmeier et al 2015)..

601 As in *C. intestinalis*, *M. edulis* showed a decrease in SfG with an elevation in  
602  $p\text{CO}_2$  in the ambient and 23 salinity treatments, attributable to reduced energy available  
603 through feeding and to a lesser extent an increase in metabolism. Despite less energy  
604 available for growth at elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$ , there was no significant effect of  $p\text{CO}_2$  on  
605 growth rate within the 26 day period of exposure. Elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  can negatively affect  
606 the growth of *M. edulis* both under natural conditions in the Baltic Sea that resemble  
607 predicted OA (Thomsen and Melzner 2010; Thomsen *et al.*, 2013), and in the laboratory  
608 (e.g. Fitzer *et al.* 2015), although  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels and length of exposure varied.

609 At ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels SfG showed a slight but significant increase in the 23  
610 salinity treatment compared to the controls, attributable to an elevation in absorption  
611 efficiency (discussed above), and results in the conservation of growth rates in this  
612 treatment. However, at the lowest salinity increased absorption efficiency cannot  
613 compensate for reduced CR and despite significant reduction in metabolic rates, SfG is  
614 reduced leading to a significant reduction in growth rate. Comparisons between  
615 populations of *M. edulis* from the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea where Baltic mussels  
616 living at comparatively lower salinities are frequently smaller than North Sea mussels,  
617 also attributed decreased growth to increased metabolic costs at lower salinities  
618 (Tedengren and Kautsky 1986) whereas in the present study decreases in SfG and  
619 associated growth rate at a salinity of 16 is due to reduced CR and not changes in  
620 metabolic rate. Interestingly salinity had no further effect on SfG or growth rates at  
621 elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels. Ammonia excretion only amounts to 1-2% of energy loss via  
622 metabolism during autumn (Bayne and Widdows 1978) and was therefore not  
623 considered here. In the high  $p\text{CO}_2$  ambient salinity treatment where metabolic rates  
624 were highest ammonia excretion would amount to an estimated loss of  $0.014\text{-}0.028 \text{ J h}^{-1}$   
625 <sup>1</sup> which only represents 0.11-0.23% of the energy absorbed through feeding in this  
626 treatment and so any overestimation of SfG is considered inconsequential.

627

628 *Conclusion and implications* Under ambient salinities of 30 energy for mussel growth  
629 and reproduction could be reduced by up to 50% after mid-term exposure to elevated  
630  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels predicted for the end of the century, leading to possible losses for the  
631 aquaculture industry. However, growth rate of *C. intestinalis*, was reduced by 70% in  
632 energy for growth and reproduction under the same conditions possibly relieving  
633 pressure on the industry from this invasive tunicate. The reduction in SfG and growth

634 rate in mussels as a result of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  is unlikely to be further affected by changes  
635 in salinity between 16 and 30. Whereas, under future predicted levels of  $p\text{CO}_2$ , *C.*  
636 *intestinalis* showed 100% mortality at a reduced salinity of 16 and showed more than  
637 90% decrease in SfG with an associated mean reduction in biomass (negative growth)  
638 at a salinity of 23. Although future levels of ocean acidification may reduce mussel  
639 productivity, the effect on the industry may be, in part, compensated by the reduced  
640 productivity of invasive tunicates particularly during times of low salinity (e.g. seasonal  
641 precipitation or melt-water). Consequently, an elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  in future mussel  
642 aquaculture could also benefit from lower salinity sites. Although mid-term exposures,  
643 as in the present study, give an indication of acclimatisation capacity and are  
644 ecologically relevant to seasonal changes in salinity and carbonate chemistry, caution  
645 should be applied when extrapolating these results to naturally assembled ecosystems.  
646 Lifelong and multigenerational responses to chronic changes in  $p\text{CO}_2$  and salinity need  
647 further investigation. For example, reductions in feeding by the grazing mollusc  
648 *Littorina littorea* in response to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and temperature are no longer observed  
649 after 5 months of acclimation (Russell *et al* 2013). The relationship between energy  
650 available for growth and growth rate is complex. For example, *C. intestinalis* showed a  
651 loss in biomass in the ambient  $p\text{CO}_2$  reduced salinity treatment despite the maintenance  
652 of SfG. This disconnect between energy available for growth and actual growth is likely  
653 to be due to changes in the carbon richness (i.e. energetic density/storage) of the tissues,  
654 the length of exposure to adverse conditions, and possibly changes in metabolic  
655 efficiency associated with body size.

656 Changes in carbonate chemistry and salinity may interact resulting in a variety  
657 of feeding and metabolic responses, effecting energy acquisition and utilisation that in-  
658 turn determines productivity. Interestingly, under natural feeding conditions, energy  
659 available for production is more dependent on feeding plasticity (i.e. the ability to  
660 regulate clearance rate and absorption efficiency) in response to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and  
661 reduced salinity than on changes in routine metabolic rates. This dependence on feeding  
662 plasticity shows the importance of understanding feeding plasticity, in addition to more  
663 commonly studied metabolic rates, in determining the comparative acclimatisation  
664 capacity of competing species to future climate change.

665

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676

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955 **Tables:**

956 **Table 1.** Physico-chemical seawater measurements from each of the six nominal  $p\text{CO}_2$  and salinity treatments over the 26 day exposure period

Nominal $p\text{CO}_2$ treatment ( $\mu\text{atm}$ )	500	500	500	1000	1000	1000
Nominal salinity treatment	30	23	16	30	23	16
$p\text{CO}_2$ treatment ( $\mu\text{atm}$ )	602±17.9 <sup>A</sup>	548±21.8 <sup>A</sup>	611±14.1 <sup>A</sup>	1045±54.0 <sup>B</sup>	964±19.2 <sup>B</sup>	1054±24.4 <sup>B</sup>
Salinity	30.5±0.11 <sup>A</sup>	22.9±0.22 <sup>B</sup>	16.2±0.15 <sup>C</sup>	30.3±0.17 <sup>A</sup>	22.9±0.39 <sup>A</sup>	15.6±0.16 <sup>A</sup>
Temperature (°C)	10.5±0.20 <sup>A</sup>	10.1±0.23 <sup>A</sup>	9.7±0.26 <sup>A</sup>	11.0±0.47 <sup>A</sup>	10.6±0.33 <sup>A</sup>	10.3±0.41 <sup>A</sup>
TA ( $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ )	2206±7 <sup>A</sup>	1678±81 <sup>B</sup>	1227±129 <sup>C</sup>	2201±9 <sup>A</sup>	1625±24 <sup>B</sup>	1161±26 <sup>C</sup>
pH	7.88±0.01 <sup>A</sup>	7.84±0.02 <sup>A</sup>	7.67±0.01 <sup>B</sup>	7.67±0.01 <sup>B</sup>	7.60±0.02 <sup>C</sup>	7.43±0.01 <sup>D</sup>
DIC ( $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ )	2105±5.10 <sup>A</sup>	1624±5.19 <sup>B</sup>	1226±1.31 <sup>C</sup>	2162±3.93 <sup>D</sup>	1618±29.7 <sup>B</sup>	1194±1.42 <sup>C</sup>
$\text{HCO}_3^-$ ( $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ )	1989±6.24 <sup>A</sup>	1546±6.81 <sup>B</sup>	1172±0.93 <sup>C</sup>	2060±3.55 <sup>D</sup>	1553±1.94 <sup>B</sup>	1131±0.75 <sup>E</sup>
$\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ( $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ )	87.8±2.53 <sup>A</sup>	52.5±2.69 <sup>B</sup>	21.6±0.37 <sup>C</sup>	56.9±1.48 <sup>B</sup>	28.8±0.81 <sup>D</sup>	11.7±0.29 <sup>E</sup>
$\Omega_{\text{calc}}$	2.15±0.61 <sup>A</sup>	1.33±0.07 <sup>B</sup>	0.57±0.01 <sup>C</sup>	1.40±0.04 <sup>B</sup>	0.74±0.02 <sup>C</sup>	0.31±0.01 <sup>D</sup>
$\Omega_{\text{arag}}$	1.35±0.04 <sup>A</sup>	0.82±0.04 <sup>B</sup>	0.33±0.01 <sup>C</sup>	0.88±0.03 <sup>B</sup>	0.45±0.01 <sup>D</sup>	0.18±0.01 <sup>E</sup>
POM ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	1.29±0.05 <sup>A</sup>	1.25±0.05 <sup>A</sup>	0.97±0.14 <sup>A</sup>	1.04±0.05 <sup>A</sup>	0.87±0.05 <sup>A</sup>	0.74±0.15 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 1-1.5 $\mu\text{m}$	26890±3230 <sup>A</sup>	21189±2327 <sup>A</sup>	25700±3926 <sup>A</sup>	28039±2465 <sup>A</sup>	25069±3026 <sup>A</sup>	26594±3257 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 1.5-2 $\mu\text{m}$	4944±163 <sup>A</sup>	4544±167 <sup>A</sup>	3683±131 <sup>A</sup>	6051±372 <sup>A</sup>	5430±345 <sup>A</sup>	4439±241 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 2-2.5 $\mu\text{m}$	2064±84 <sup>A</sup>	1925±106 <sup>A</sup>	1524±69 <sup>A</sup>	2468±165 <sup>A</sup>	2181±145 <sup>A</sup>	1748±97 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 2.5-3 $\mu\text{m}$	1033±42 <sup>A</sup>	982±57 <sup>A</sup>	796±53 <sup>A</sup>	1209±87 <sup>A</sup>	1072±66 <sup>A</sup>	865±57 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 3-4 $\mu\text{m}$	1334±59 <sup>A</sup>	1279±88 <sup>A</sup>	1087±114 <sup>A</sup>	1507±119 <sup>A</sup>	1332±82 <sup>A</sup>	1116±80 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 4-5 $\mu\text{m}$	1365±49 <sup>A</sup>	1301±84 <sup>A</sup>	1102±74 <sup>A</sup>	1560±142 <sup>A</sup>	1388±88 <sup>A</sup>	1183±111 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 5-6 $\mu\text{m}$	630±23 <sup>A</sup>	588±23 <sup>A</sup>	466±26 <sup>A</sup>	730±82 <sup>A</sup>	646±52 <sup>A</sup>	555±67 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 6-7 $\mu\text{m}$	371±13 <sup>A</sup>	356±15 <sup>A</sup>	266±15 <sup>A</sup>	425±51 <sup>A</sup>	364±28 <sup>A</sup>	302±32 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 7-8 $\mu\text{m}$	263±12 <sup>A</sup>	244±8 <sup>A</sup>	196±13 <sup>A</sup>	313±40 <sup>A</sup>	269±22 <sup>A</sup>	210±21 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 8-9 $\mu\text{m}$	178±7 <sup>A</sup>	164±6 <sup>A</sup>	125±7 <sup>A</sup>	209±25 <sup>A</sup>	181±16 <sup>A</sup>	129±11 <sup>A</sup>
Suspended Particles $10\text{ml}^{-1}$ 9-10 $\mu\text{m}$	123±5 <sup>A</sup>	109±4 <sup>A</sup>	86±6 <sup>A</sup>	143±15 <sup>A</sup>	126±12 <sup>A</sup>	88±7 <sup>A</sup>

957 Temperature, salinity and pH (NBS scale) were measured 3 times daily. Total alkalinity (TA) was measured twice weekly. All other parameters [pCO<sub>2</sub>; DIC (total dissolved inorganic carbon);  
 958 calcite and aragonite saturation state ( $\Omega_{\text{calc}}$  and  $\Omega_{\text{arag}}$ , respectively); HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>; and CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>] were calculated from pH and A<sub>T</sub> with CO2SYS (Lewis and Wallace, 1998) using the dissociation after  
 959 Dickson and Millero (1987). Particulate organic matter (POM) is a mean across species at the time of CR determination. Concentration of suspended particles, within 10 size-intervals between 1  
 960 and 10µm in diameter, were determined every 48 h during the 26-day incubation using a laser particle counter (PAMAS GmbH, Model S4031GO), values are presented as the mean number of  
 961 particles 10ml<sup>-1</sup> of seawater. Values are means ± s.e.m. Different superscript letters indicate significant variation between treatments (ANOVA, Tukey HSD post hoc, P<0.05).

962 **Table 2.** Estimated energetic parameters for surviving *C. intestinalis* after 26 days exposure to combined elevated pCO<sub>2</sub> and reduced salinity  
 963 treatments.

Nominal pCO <sub>2</sub> treatment (µatm)	500	500	1000	1000
Nominal salinity treatment	30	23	30	23
Energy Ingested (J h <sup>-1</sup> )	34.9±3.41 <sup>A</sup>	40.0±3.05 <sup>A</sup>	19.4±2.97 <sup>1B</sup>	5.7±3.21 <sup>2B</sup>
Absorption Efficiency (%)	34.8±7.51	39.2±3.78	23.4±1.49	27.5±1.62
Energy Absorbed (J h <sup>-1</sup> )	14.8±2.39 <sup>A</sup>	15.3±2.28 <sup>A</sup>	1.1±2.39 <sup>B</sup>	5.1±2.22 <sup>B</sup>
Scope for Growth (J h <sup>-1</sup> )	14.7±2.64 <sup>A</sup>	15.2±2.28 <sup>A</sup>	4.9±2.22 <sup>B</sup>	1.0±2.39 <sup>B</sup>

964 Values are estimated means ± s.e.m generated from the GLMM (pCO<sub>2</sub>\*Salinity) and adjusted to the mean mass of sampled individuals (120.1 mg DW). Different superscript  
 965 numbers and letters indicate significant variation (p >0.05) established by F-tests based on linearly independent pairwise comparisons among the estimated marginal means.  
 966 For Absorption Efficiency values are mean % ± s.e.m with statistical comparisons as above but based on arc sign square root transformed data. Numbers indicate significant  
 967 effects of salinity within each level of pCO<sub>2</sub>. Letters indicate significant effects of pCO<sub>2</sub> within each level of salinity.  
 968  
 969



970 **Table 3.** Estimated energetic parameters for *M. edulis* after 26 days exposure to combined elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  and reduced salinity treatments.

Nominal $p\text{CO}_2$ treatment ( $\mu\text{atm}$ )	500	500	500	1000	1000	1000
Nominal salinity treatment	30	23	16	30	23	16
Energy Ingested ( $\text{J h}^{-1}$ )	68.7±4.64 <sup>1</sup>	58.3±4.38 <sup>1</sup>	21.5±4.37 <sup>2A</sup>	62.5±4.37 <sup>1,2</sup>	63.8±4.67 <sup>1</sup>	48.1±4.36 <sup>2B</sup>
Absorption Efficiency (%)	32.8±2.34 <sup>1A</sup>	47.5±1.07 <sup>2A</sup>	48.1±0.99 <sup>2A</sup>	19.5±0.93 <sup>1B</sup>	31.3±0.79 <sup>1,2B</sup>	44.6±1.58 <sup>2B</sup>
Energy Absorbed ( $\text{J h}^{-1}$ )	22.8±1.79 <sup>1A</sup>	27.7±1.70 <sup>2A</sup>	10.3±1.70 <sup>3A</sup>	12.1±1.70 <sup>B</sup>	14.3±1.80 <sup>B</sup>	15.8±1.70 <sup>B</sup>
Scope for Growth ( $\text{J h}^{-1}$ )	22.2±1.82 <sup>1A</sup>	27.3±1.72 <sup>2A</sup>	9.8±1.72 <sup>3</sup>	10.7±1.72 <sup>B</sup>	13.4±1.84 <sup>B</sup>	15.0±1.82

971

972 Values are estimated means  $\pm$  s.e.m generated from the GLMM ( $p\text{CO}_2$ \*Salinity) and adjusted to the mean mass of sampled individuals (598.5 mg DW). Different  
 973 superscript numbers and letters indicate significant variation ( $p > 0.05$ ) established by F-tests based on linearly independent pairwise comparisons among the estimated  
 974 marginal means. For Absorption Efficiency values are mean %  $\pm$  s.e.m with statistical comparisons as above but based on arc sign square root transformed data. Numbers  
 975 indicate significant effects of salinity within each level of  $p\text{CO}_2$ . Letters indicate significant effects of  $p\text{CO}_2$  within each level of salinity.

976

977 **Figure legends:**

978

979 **Figure 1.** Oxygen uptake and Clearance rate in *C. intestinalis* (A and C respectively)  
980 after 26 days exposure to 23 or 30 salinity and *M. edulis* (B and D respectively), after  
981 26 days exposure to 16, 23 or 30 salinity at ambient (500  $\mu\text{atm}$ ; black bars) or  
982 elevated (1000  $\mu\text{atm}$ ; white bars)  $p\text{CO}_2$ . No data is shown for *C. intestinalis* at 16  
983 salinity due to 100% mortality in this treatment. Values are estimated means  $\pm$  s.e.m  
984 generated from the GLMM ( $p\text{CO}_2$ \*Salinity) and adjusted to the mean mass of  
985 sampled individuals (*C. intestinalis* = 120.1 mg DW; *M. edulis* = 598.5 mg DW).  
986 Different numbers and letters indicate significant variation ( $p > 0.05$ ) established by F-  
987 tests based on linearly independent pairwise comparisons among the estimated  
988 marginal means. Numbers indicate significant effects of salinity within each level of  
989  $p\text{CO}_2$ . Letters indicate significant effects of  $p\text{CO}_2$  within each level of salinity.

990

991 **Figure 2.** SfG, AFDW:DW and Growth rate for *C. intestinalis* (A, C and E  
992 respectively) after 26 days exposure to 23 or 30 salinity and *M. edulis* (B, D and F  
993 respectively) after 26 days exposure to 16, 23 or 30 salinity at ambient (500  $\mu\text{atm}$ ;  
994 black bars) or elevated (1000  $\mu\text{atm}$ ; white bars)  $p\text{CO}_2$ . No data is shown for *C.*  
995 *intestinalis* at 16 salinity due to 100% mortality in this treatment. Values are  
996 estimated means  $\pm$  s.e.m generated from the GLMM ( $p\text{CO}_2$ \*Salinity) and adjusted to  
997 the mean mass of sampled individuals (*C. intestinalis* = 120.1 mg DW; *M. edulis* =  
998 598.5 mg DW). Different numbers and letters indicate significant variation ( $p > 0.05$ )  
999 established by F-tests based on linearly independent pairwise comparisons among the  
1000 estimated marginal means Numbers indicate significant effects of salinity within each  
1001 level of  $p\text{CO}_2$ . Letters indicate significant effects of  $p\text{CO}_2$  within each level of  
1002 salinity.

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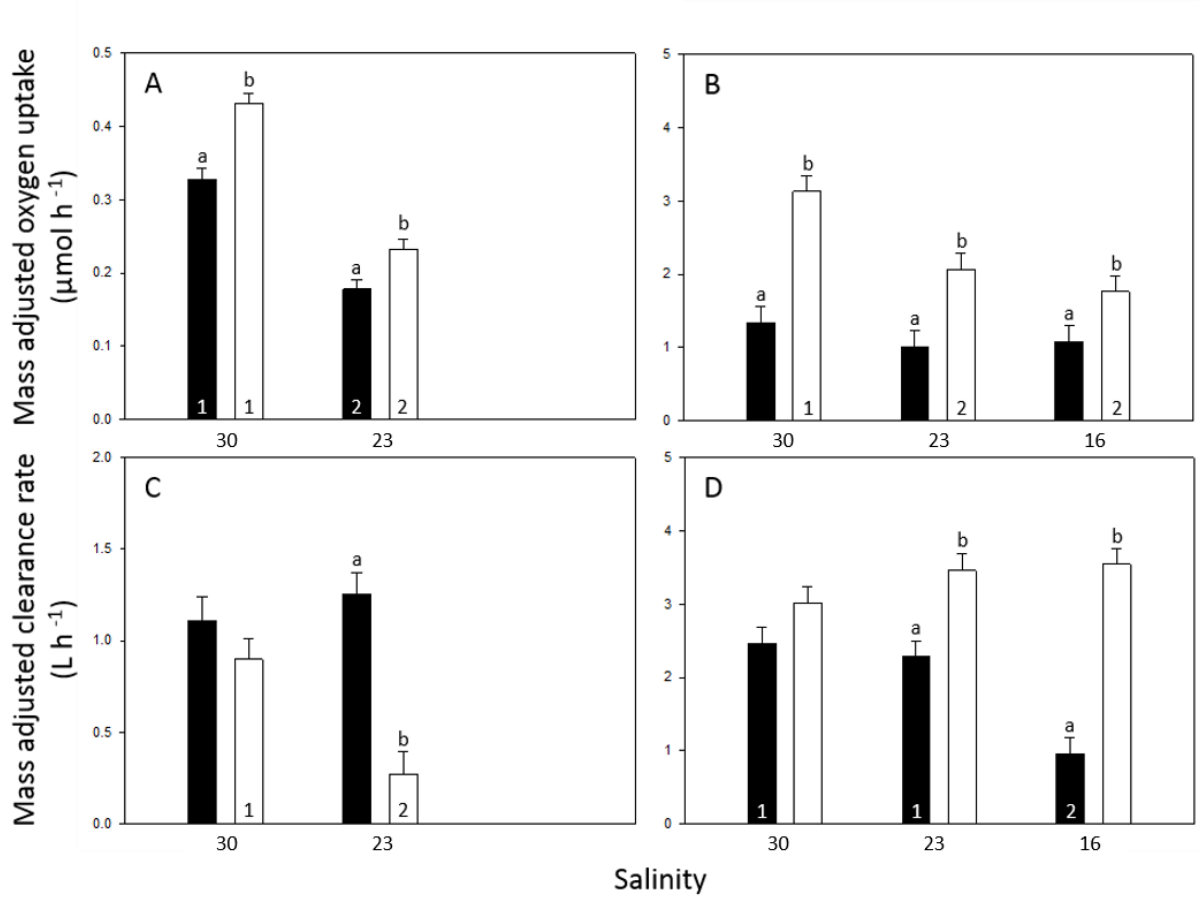
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1011 **Figure 1:**



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